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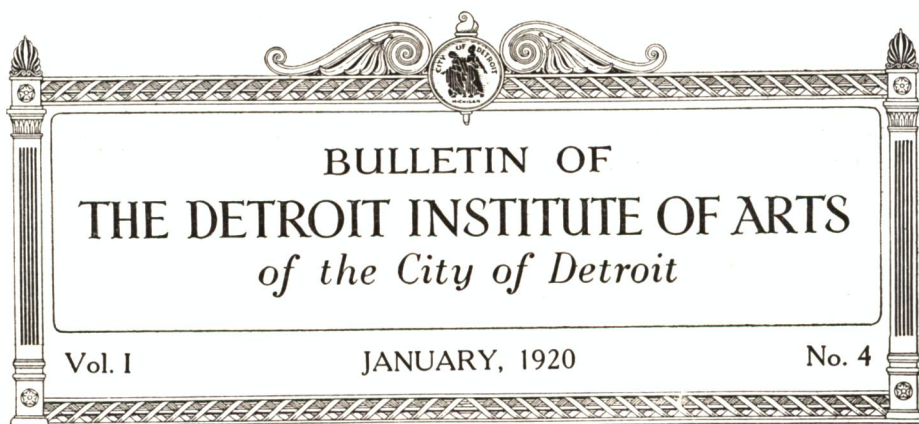
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REPORT OF THE ARTS COMMISSION FOR THE YEAR 1919

To the Honorable,
THE COMMON COUNCIL,
City of Detroit, Michigan.
Gentlemen:

I have the honor to submit to you herewith a resumé of the activities of the Arts Commission for the period from their appointment to December 31st, 1919.

Following their appointment early in January, 1919, the Arts Commission of the City of Detroit came into being for the first time under Chapter XIX of the new charter of the City of Detroit. The organizing meeting of the Commission was held at 1817 Dime Bank Building, Commissioners Ralph H. Booth, Albert Kahn and William J. Gray being present. At that meeting Ralph H. Booth was elected President, William J. Gray Vice-President and Clyde H. Burroughs was appointed Secretary. The Commission adopted a

motion that meetings be held every Monday afternoon at four o'clock.

Major D. M. Ferry, Jr., also appointed to the Arts Commission, was not present at the early meetings, owing to his absence in the service of the United States. Subsequently, he attended some of the meetings of the Commission, but upon receipt of an opinion from the Corporation Counsel that he must be a resident of Detroit, he felt that he could not qualify, much to the regret of his fellow Commissioners.

The first duty of the Commission was the consideration of the budget for the operation of the Museum for the fiscal year beginning July 1st, 1919. In this budget an item for a new building for the Detroit Institute of Arts was included but later, owing to the City's enormous requirements, the item was withdrawn by the Commission and a

nominal sum of \$5,000.00 for an investigation looking to the new building was substituted.

The Arts Commission faced three important problems during the year, viz:

(1) NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE PROPERTY AND COLLECTIONS WHICH THE DETROIT MUSEUM OF ART HAD EXPRESSED AN INTENTION TO CONVEY TO THE ARTS COMMISSION.

(2) TO DETERMINE THE FORM AND CHARACTER OF THE NEW BUILDING FOR THE DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS.

(3) ADMINISTRATION OF THE MUSEUM.

1. *The negotiations for the property and collections which the Detroit Museum of Art had expressed an intention to convey to the Arts Commission.* Although the Arts Commission worked continuously on this problem throughout the year, owing to legal difficulties in making the conveyance it was not accomplished until the month of December, when the Commission received from the Detroit Museum of Art a deed covering two blocks, bounded by Woodward Avenue, Kirby Avenue, John R Street and Frederick Street; the other by Woodward Avenue, Frederick Street, John R Street and Farnsworth Avenue, together with all interests in the adjoining streets and alleys, and estimated at a valuation of a million dollars, together with a bill of sale of the art collections and personal property contained in the Museum of Art building, which is con-

servatively valued, as per the inventory attached to this report, at \$897,491. The Arts Commission, therefore, comes into existence in Detroit, possessed of well-rounded collections, large in their significance and valued at nearly a million dollars, and a site for the new Institute of Arts in the heart of the City's population, and a part of a new center of arts and letters, whose intrinsic worth to-day is in excess of a million dollars, together with a background of art appreciation which has been fostered for a period of over thirty years by the Museum Corporation.

2. *To determine the form and character of the new building on this site for the Detroit Institute of Arts.* To this end, the Arts Commission with the limited means at its disposal, after much deliberation on the subject, retained Professor Paul Cret, of the University of Pennsylvania, architect for the Pan American Building at Washington and the Indianapolis Public Library, as consulting architect. Professor Cret has brought in a preliminary report on the problems of the new building, together with a number of architectural sketches, with which the Commission is so well pleased that it would like to continue Professor Cret to further develop the plans for the proposed building.

3. *The Administration of the Museum.* Although the actual conveyance of the collections of the Museum did not take place

until December, the Arts Commission was requested by the Trustees of the Detroit Museum of Art to assume the operation and maintenance of the Museum beginning July 1st, 1919. I am submitting for your consideration here-

with a report of the activities for the past six months, as follows:

With the \$20,000 at its disposal for Purchases for Collections the Commission has acquired many important objects of Art, as follows:

PURCHASES FOR THE COLLECTIONS

Oil painting, "*Sir Brook(e) Boothby, Bart.*," by Sir Joshua Reynolds, P. R. A.

Oil painting, "*Young Girl*," by Robert Henri.

Oil painting, "*The Beach Hat*," by Robert Henri.

Oil painting, "*Boy With Plaid Scarf*," by Robert Henri.

Oil painting, "*Freckles*," by Roy Gamble.

Oil painting, "*A Michigan Home*," by Ivan Swift.

Four etchings, "*Geese*," "*Three Geese*," "*Migrating Geese*," "*Broad Bills*," by Frank W. Benson.

Two bronzes, "*Wounded Stag*," "*Resting Stag*," by Elie Nadelman.

Set of three French Gothic carved wood panels.

Forty-four textiles of the XV, XVI and XVII centuries, consisting of velvets, brocades, silks, damasks, brocatelles, etc.

From this list let me single out for your attention the painting by Sir Joshua Reynolds, which is a superb and exceptional example of the English School of the late XVIII century, and whose value in our belief is greatly in excess of the amount paid for it.

Let me also call your attention to the fact that among the objects acquired, such as period textiles and carved wood panels, the Commission has aimed to secure objects of use to architects, designers, craftsmen, students and artisans, and in future purchases we hope to further develop our collections of metal work, printing, ceramics, furniture, etc., of the best periods of the past, which will be a source of inspiration to the craftsman and a storehouse for the designer of to-day.

Gifts have been received as follows:

**BULLETIN OF THE
DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS
OF THE CITY OF DETROIT**

Published, monthly, except
June, July, August and September,

AT THE
DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS
FORMERLY
THE DETROIT MUSEUM OF ART
Corner Jefferson Ave. and Hastings St.

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Office at Detroit, Michigan, under the Act of
October 3rd, 1917.

ARTS COMMISSION

RALPH H. BOOTH.....President
WILLIAM J. GRAY.....Vice-President
ALBERT KAHN.....
Commissioners
CLYDE H. BURROUGHS..Secretary and Curator

HOURS

The Institute is open daily from 9:00 a.m.
to 5:00 p.m.; Sundays from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00
p.m.; holidays from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Admission is always free.

COPYING

The Detroit Institute of Arts desires to give
every facility to the art student, designer or
mechanic who wishes to study or copy objects
in the Institute collections. There are hun-
dreds of objects which would suggest form or
design for articles of utility and beauty. Re-
quests for permits to copy and photograph in
the Institute should be addressed to the
Secretary.

LANTERN SLIDES

The lantern slide collection, embracing sev-
eral thousand subjects, is at the disposal of
teachers of the public schools free of charge.
Slides on art, history and travel are available
for the use of study clubs at a nominal rental.

GIFTS

Oil painting, "*Child With Kitten*," by William Owen, R. A., presented
by the Detroit Museum of Art Founders' Society.

Oil painting, "*Fish Market of Bruges*," by Francis P. Paulus, presented
by Mrs. Alice Gray Kales and Mr. David Gray.

Oil painting, "*The Last Hours of Mozart*," by Mihaly Munkacsy, pre-
sented by Mrs. Henry D. Sheldon, Russell A. Alger and F. M. Alger, a very
notable and world-renowned painting, valued at \$40,000.00.

Thirty-six etchings by Francis P. Paulus, presented by the artist.

Forty-two large photographs of European travel subjects, presented
by Miss Mary Turner.

Ten Historical Maps and Charts, presented by Mr. J. G. Albright.

Twenty-three pieces of Lace and Embroidery, presented by the Misses
Alexandrine and Katherine McEwen, in memory of Miss Sarah H. Sibley.

One-piece of Reticello Lace, presented by Miss L. B. Engelhart.

Benjamin Franklin Stove, presented by Miss Osceola M. Haven.

Service Ring, (2) Memorial Medals by Paul Manship and Engraved
Testimonial, similar to those presented by the City of Detroit to her sol-
diers and sailors in the World War.

LECTURES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

- Sept. 5*—Sketch Class, under Auspices of Recreation Commission.
- Sept. 6*—Meeting of the Junior Arts Club of the Chamber Music Society.
- Sept. 12*—Sketch Class, under Auspices of Recreation Commission.
- Sept. 13*—Meeting of the Junior Arts Club of the Chamber Music Society.
- Sept. 19*—Sketch Class, under Auspices of Recreation Commission.
- Sept. 20*—Meeting of the Junior Arts Club of the Chamber Music Society.
- Sept. 20*—Meeting of the Young Authors' Club of the Detroit News.
- Sept. 26*—Sketch Class, under Auspices of Recreation Commission.
- Sept. 27*—Meeting of the Junior Arts Club of the Chamber Music Society.
- Oct. 1*—Meeting of the Art Teachers of the Public Schools.
- Oct. 3*—Sketch Class, under Auspices of Recreation Commission.
- Oct. 4*—Meeting of the Junior Arts Club of the Chamber Music Society.
- Oct. 6*—Meeting of the Art Teachers of the Public Schools.
- Oct. 8*—Meeting of the Art Teachers of the Public Schools.
- Oct. 10*—Sketch Class, under Auspices of Recreation Commission.
- Oct. 11*—Meeting of the Junior Arts Club of the Chamber Music Society.
- Oct. 12*—Lecture by Thomas Whitney Surette.
Columbus Day Celebration, under the Auspices of the Italian Societies of Detroit.
- Oct. 17*—Lecture: "Art and Its Value to a City," by Clyde H. Burroughs, for the City Art and Design Committee of the Twentieth Century Club.
Sketch Club, under Auspices of Recreation Commission.
- Oct. 18*—Meeting of the Junior Arts Club of the Chamber Music Society.
- Oct. 19*—Musical Program furnished by the Chamber Music Society.

- Oct. 24*—Gallery talk on paintings by Boris Anisfeld, by Secretary Clyde H. Burroughs. Sketch Class, under Auspices of Recreation Commission.
- Oct. 25*—Meeting of the Junior Arts Club of the Chamber Music Society.
- Oct. 26*—Musical program furnished by the Chamber Music Society.
Gallery talk on the paintings by Boris Anisfeld by Secretary Clyde H. Burroughs.
- Oct. 31*—Sketch Class, under Auspices of Recreation Commission.
- Nov. 1*—Meeting of the Junior Arts Club of the Chamber Music Society.
Recital by Mrs. W. Watson.
- Nov. 2*—Program of Readings and Songs by Lewis Vicary.
- Nov. 7*—Sketch Class, under Auspices of Recreation Commission.
- Nov. 8*—Meeting of the Junior Arts Club of the Chamber Music Society.
- Nov. 9*—Gallery Talk on Russian Art, by Ossip Perelma.
Lecture: "Renaissance and Modern Art"—"The Renaissance in Italy, the XV Century," by Professor Herbert Richard Cross of Ann Arbor.
- Nov. 14*—Sketch Class, under Auspices of Recreation Commission.
- Nov. 15*—Meeting of the Junior Arts Club of the Chamber Music Society.
- Nov. 16*—Lecture: "Music and Its Relation to Life," by Thomas Whitney Surette.
Gallery Talk on Russian Art by Ossip Perelma.
- Nov. 21*—Sketch Class, under Auspices of Recreation Commission.
- Nov. 22*—Meeting of the Junior Arts Club of the Chamber Music Society.
- Nov. 23*—Lecture by Professor Herbert Richard Cross on the "Renaissance in Italy, the XVI Century" (Leonardo and Raphael and their Schools.)
- Nov. 25*—Special view of Mr. Julius Rolshoven's painting "The Land of Sip-O-Phe," with reception for Mr. and Mrs. Rolshoven.
- Nov. 28*—Sketch Class, under Auspices of Recreation Commission.
- Nov. 29*—Meeting of the Junior Arts Club of the Chamber Music Society.

- Nov. 30*—Lecture by Professor Herbert Richard Cross on the "Renaissance in Italy, the XVI Century" (Correggio, Michelangelo and their Schools.)
Musical program furnished by the Chamber Music Society.
Gallery talk on Wood Block Printing by Paul Honore and Harry M. Kurtzworth.
- Dec. 2*—Meeting of the Art Teachers of the Public Schools.
- Dec. 3*—Reception and opening view of the Michigan Artists' Exhibition.
- Dec. 5*—Sketch Class, under Auspices of Recreation Commission.
- Dec. 6*—Meeting of the Junior Arts Club of the Chamber Music Society.
Play by Boys Preparatory School for settlements, under the direction of Mr. Eugene Paulus.
Exhibition of Handicrafts and program for Czecho-Slovaks, under the Auspices of the Recreation Commission.
- Dec. 7*—Musical program by the Pia-Cellalto Trio, presented by the Chamber Music Society.
- Dec. 12*—Recital by pupils of the Harvard Music School.
Sketch Class, under Auspices of Recreation Commission.
- Dec. 13*—Meeting of the Junior Arts Club of the Chamber Music Society.
- Dec. 14*—Lecture by Thomas Whitney Surette.
- Dec. 20*—Christmas party for children, under the Auspices of the Chamber Music Society.
- Dec. 21*—Lecture by Professor Herbert Richard Cross on the "Renaissance in Italy, the Venetian School."
Gallery talk on wood block printing in color, by Clyde H. Burroughs.
- Dec. 26*—Sketch Class, under Auspices of Recreation Commission.
- Dec. 27*—Meeting of the Junior Arts Club of the Chamber Music Society.
- Dec. 28*—Lecture by Professor Herbert Richard Cross on the "Renaissance in France, the XVI, XVII and XVIII Centuries."
- Dec. 29*—Lecture: "The Bagdad Railway," by Professor Jastrow, under the Auspices of the Archaeological Society.

NEED OF MUSEUM INSTRUCTION

In addition to these activities, it is the intention of the Arts Commission to establish a Department of Museum instruction, appointing therein an instructor or instructors whose duties it shall be to interpret the collections to the public, to take charge of teachers and classes from the schools, and to guide them in the understanding of the collections, to assist the art student, designer, artisan and manufacturer by placing at their disposal the objects in the collection of use to them, and to generally devote themselves to building up in Detroit an appreciation of Art and its significance in the everyday lives of the people. It has become the rule, rather than the exception, in American Museums to have such an educational staff to make the collections serve their greatest usefulness, and it is the desire of the Arts Commission that every citizen of Detroit shall get his share of aesthetic pleasure from the public collections, which are henceforth to be his heritage.

ATTENDANCE

During the past six months there has been an average daily attendance of over four hundred people at the Museum, and while feeling somewhat gratified with this interest, the Commission is confident that with the development of the proposed department of

instruction, this attendance will not only be greatly augmented, but those who do come will have an infinitely greater understanding of the treasures of the Museum.

ART LIBRARY

The report of Isabel Weadock, Librarian, shows a satisfactory growth in the activities of the Museum Library. There has been a steady increase in the number of readers and a greater demand for books, lantern slides and photographs. Owing to the limited book collection in the Museum Library, it is reserved from circulation except for readers in the Museum, being loaned only when the books cannot be had at the Public Libraries.

During the period covered by this report there were loaned 177 books, 2,113 lantern slides and 1,002 photographs, chiefly to schools, commercial artists, designers, church workers and study clubs.

A number of important architectural photographs were added to the collection through purchase. Through the gift of Mrs. Francis J. Sarmiento many valuable books on interior decoration and design and a number of useful photographs were secured. The purchases of books were confined to subjects akin to the Museum work.

The importance of a Library as an adjunct to the Museum is well sustained in this report. We

regard it as one of our most important functions. We feel that the Museum Library has appropriated to itself a field of usefulness which in no sense is a duplication of the work of other libraries. It is a special reference library of Art, having at its command the circulation of prints, photographs, lantern slides and the more technical publications on Art and Design. Its appeal will eventually become very great. Not only the study club and art student but the designer in Detroit industries should have at his disposal in this library such technical works as will be an inspiration to him, in creating a better industrial product.

The Museum Library should purchase the best books obtainable together with illustrative prints on interior decorating, metal work, textile design, carving, furniture, costumes and similar fields of endeavor, in which design plays an important part so that it might be both at the disposal of the Museum staff, in whose department existing examples might be found, and of the Art student and industrial designer, who might need technical help.

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

The report of Gertrude Gillmore, Curator of the Children's Museum, covering the activities of this Department, shows the loan of 164 study collections to the 34 city schools and other educational organizations, and it is estimated

that these collections reached 22,855 children.

This Department also developed a Community Civics and Junior Red Cross Exhibit in November, consisting of a series of projects worked out by the children of the schools in graphic form, such as the courts, free clinics and hospitals, safety first, municipal markets, organization of the city government under the new charter and a voting booth. This exhibit has been visited by a total of 341 children with their teachers from the public schools, not to mention the many who came independently to see the exhibit.

SIGNIFICANT NEEDS

Among the significant needs of the Arts Commission, we emphasize for your sympathetic consideration the need of a liberal appropriation in order that the architectural plans for the new building for the Detroit Institute of Arts, now reaching a mature stage, may be completed as rapidly as possible, and we urge the inclusion in the budget of the coming year an appropriation of \$2,000,000.00 for the building itself, in order that the program ably begun by the Arts Commission during the past year may be carried on without interruption. The construction work on a building of this magnitude will take several years, and this appropriation, if made, will be spread over the entire period required

for construction and only a portion of it used each year. For the coming fiscal year we believe that \$150,000.00 would be adequate for the amount of construction work that can be done. At best we can not fulfill our obligation to the donors of the new Museum site and to the people of Detroit, who have looked forward to the completion of the center of arts and letters, under a long period of time.

We also bring to your attention the need of an adequate sum for Purchases for Collections. Because of their precious quality, art objects of suitable character for a

public collection require a large capital outlay. This appropriation, however, is not an expense. The accessions purchased with it are a continuing asset which constantly fulfills a sphere of usefulness in the lives of the people, and at the same time these objects increase in intrinsic worth each year.

Respectfully yours,

ARTS COMMISSION.

RALPH H. BOOTH, *President*

WILLIAM J. GRAY, *Vice-President*

ALBERT KAHN,

Commissioners.

CLYDE H. BURROUGHS, *Secretary*



CALENDAR OF CURRENT EVENTS

JANUARY TO MARCH, 1920

- Jan. 2.* Children's Play. Boys and Girls Section of the Detroit News.
- Jan. 4—3:00 p. m.* Musical Program by the Flonzaley Quartette, through the courtesy of the Chamber Music Society.
- Jan. 10—10:00 a. m.* Community Singing for Children, under the direction of Thomas Whitney Surette, under the auspices of the Chamber Music Society.
- Jan. 10—3:00 p. m.* Lecture on Music, for Teachers, by Thomas Whitney Surette.
- Jan. 11—3:00 p. m.* Lecture: "Music and its Relation to Life," by Thomas Whitney Surette, under the auspices of the Chamber Music Society.
- Jan. 18—3:00 p. m.* Lecture: "French Art of the Early XIXth Century," by Professor Herbert Richard Cross.
- Jan. 25—3:00 p. m.* Lecture: "French Art of the Later XIXth Century," by Professor Herbert Richard Cross.
- Jan. 30—1:00 p. m.* Lecture on Greek Antiquities by Dudley Crafts Watson.
- Jan. 30—8:00 p. m.* Gallery Talk by Dudley Crafts Watson.
- Feb. 1—3:00 p. m.* Lecture: "How Art Helped Win the War," by Dudley Crafts Watson.
- Feb. 2—* Gallery Talks by Dudley Crafts Watson.
- Feb. 3—* Gallery Talks by Dudley Crafts Watson.
- Feb. 3.* Opening of Lace Exhibition.
- Feb. 4—3:00 p. m.* Lecture: "The Romance of Old Laces," by Mrs. Charles W. Townsend (Sara Gore Flint), at the Society of Arts and Crafts.
- Feb. 4—* Gallery Talks by Dudley Crafts Watson.
- Feb. 5—12:30 m.* Lecture: "The Relation of the Public to the Artist" for the Twentieth Century Club.

- Feb. 5—3:30 p. m.* Gallery Talks by Dudley Crafts Watson.
- Feb. 6—8:15 p. m.* Lecture: "Embroidery as a Fine Art, with Special Reference to Italian Embroidery of the XVI and XVII Centuries," by Mrs. Charles W. Townsend (Sarah Gore Flint).
- Feb. 7—10:00 a. m.* Community Singing for Children under the direction of Thomas Whitney Surette, under the auspices of the Chamber Music Society.
- Feb. 7—3:00 p. m.* Lecture on Music, for Teachers, by Thomas Whitney Surette.
- Feb. 8—3:00 p. m.* Lecture: "Music and Its Relation to Life," by Thomas Whitney Surette, under the auspices of the Chamber Music Society.
- Feb. 13—* Program for Armenians, under the auspices of the Recreation Commission.
- Feb. 15—3:00 p. m.* Lecture: "Contemporary French Art" by Professor Herbert Richard Cross.
- Feb. 22—3:00 p. m.* Lecture: "The Renaissance in Spain" by Professor Herbert Richard Cross.
- Feb. 29—3:00 p. m.* Lecture: "The Renaissance in Flanders" by Professor Herbert Richard Cross.

CALENDAR OF CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

JANUARY TO MAY, 1920

- January 1—February 15* Paintings by Stephen Haweis.
- January 15—March 1* Exhibition by American Painters, Sculptors, and Gravers.
- January 15—February 1* War Sculptures by Mrs. Harry Paine Whitney.
- February 1—February 30* Works by Albert Wenzell.
- March* Group Exhibition of Water Colors by American Artists.
- April 1—April 14* Paintings by Mabel Key.
- April 5—May 30* Annual Exhibition of Paintings by American Artists.